



DAY-2: Special Thematic Session 15

September 20, 2023 (Wednesday); Time: 14:00-15:30 hrs (GMT +5:30)

Theme: Role of Sustainability Education in amplifying Nature based Solutions for Climate Action

Venue: India Habitat Centre, Jacranda 2

Background

Nature can provide solutions to many of the challenges society faces today, including climate change, food and water security, human health, disaster risk reduction, ecosystem degradation and biodiversity loss, and resilient and sustainable rural livelihoods. To accommodate the broad range, IUCN has defined Nature-based Solutions as “actions to protect, sustainably manage and restore natural or modified ecosystems, that address societal challenges (e.g. climate change, food and water security or natural disasters) effectively and adaptively, simultaneously providing human well-being and biodiversity benefits.”

Nature-based Solutions (NbS) have the capacity to offer pathways for transformative changes to address the current crises and also to rethink the conservation-economy dilemma. Additionally, they create job opportunities and protect communities in vulnerable situations from disasters like flooding, landslides, and droughts.

Research shows that these could deliver up to a third of the emissions reductions between now and 2030 needed to limit global warming to 2C. It is estimated that \$44 trillion of economic value generation is moderately or highly dependent on nature and its services, which corresponds to over half of traditional global GDP (WEF, 2020). Approximately 1.2 billion jobs in sectors such as farming, fisheries, forestry and tourism rely on healthy and functioning ecosystems (WWF-ILO, 2020).

In this context, nature-based solutions (NbS) have gained significant attention as a holistic approach towards addressing these climate-related challenges. However, there is a critical

gap in robust awareness, skill and knowledge among the young generation that needs to be bridged to fully capitalize on these opportunities. Sustainability education holds the key to filling this gap. It can empower the youth with the knowledge, values, and skills needed to

drive NbS and take up green jobs. However, to scale up and mainstream NbS initiatives, robust awareness and understanding is required. This session seeks to explore this connection more deeply.

About the Session

This conference session aims to delve into the intersection of sustainability education, nature-based solutions, and green job creation for the youth, offering a platform for cross-sectoral dialogue and innovative idea exchange.

Session Objectives

The objective of this session is to explore and examine the role of sustainability education in amplifying the impact of nature-based solutions for climate action, and open up pathways to green jobs for the younger generation. It will provide a platform for academics, industry experts and environmental professionals to share insights, experiences, and innovative approaches to integrating sustainability education and NbS.

Key Topics:

- Case studies of effective implementation of nature-based solutions.
- Opportunities and challenges in scaling up NbS initiatives with focus on green jobs opportunities for youth.
- Strategies for mainstreaming NbS and green jobs training within sustainability education at various levels.
- The role of public and private sectors in promoting green job opportunities in nature-based solutions.

Outcomes

- Highlight the integral role of sustainability education in promoting understanding and adoption of nature-based solutions.
- Facilitate knowledge exchange and cooperation among stakeholders involved in nature based solutions and climate action.
- Generate actionable recommendations for policymakers, educators, and practitioners to advance NbS.
- Active dialog on promoting green jobs within the realm of nature-based solutions.

Target Audience

The session is designed for educators, researchers, policymakers, students, environmental

professionals, and all those interested in sustainability education and nature-based solutions for climate action.

Format

The session will include keynote presentations by leading experts, panel discussion, and Q&A sessions to ensure a productive and engaging exchange of ideas.

Key Speakers/Panelists

1. Ms Sheetal Antil, Sourcing Specialist, NbS, South Asia, South Pole-Moderator
2. Mr Arvind Anil Boaz, Climate Consultant, DFID-CCIP-ACT
3. Dr. Erach Bharucha, Director BVIEER
4. Ms Archana Chatterjee, Program Manager, IUCN-India